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ISOLATE NICARAGUA IF IT WON'T BEND, MONDALE SUGGESTS

FOREIGN-POLICY INTERVIEW

He Would 'Quarantine' Nation if It Rejected Compromise and Exported Violence

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 — Walter F. Mondale says that if Nicaragua rejected a good-faith compromise and continued to export revolution in Central America, he would respond with a "quarantine."

In an interview, the Democratic Presidential candidate did not specify what "quarantine" meant, beyond "interdiction" by Central American forces assisted by American intelligence information. He stressed that any such action would have to be preceded by a dedicated effort at negotiations.

Force in Grenada Favored

In an interview on foreign issues Sunday, Mr. Mondale said for the first time that he would have used force in Grenada "to go in there and protect American lives."

Last October, when President Reagan dispatched a military task force with the goals of protecting Americans in Grenada and overthrowing its left-wing Government, Mr. Mondale questioned whether the Americans were actually at risk and whether the attack would undermine American principles.

Broader Appeal Sought

With his statements on Nicaragua and other foreign issues, Mr. Mondale appeared to be sharpening and toughening his positions on what his aides call "strength issues" to broaden his appeal to moderates and conservatives.

* The burden of what he said, as he sat puffing on a cigar in the living room of his home here, was that a second Reagan

term would be dangerous because the President was neither sincere nor realistic in negotiating with the Soviet Union, Nicaragua or the states of the Middle East.

"When this election is over, what will we see?" he asked. "Will we see the blandishments of the last two months of a President who's seeking re-election, or will there be the real Reagan who reappears?" To him, this would mean a Reagan Administration "carrying on the arms race rather than trying to get arms agreements," and efforts "to win by force" in Central America rather than seeking peace through negotiation.

Issues of War and Peace

Mr. Mondale underlined this point today in his speech in Washington and also signaled a push to make "war and peace a major issue in this campaign."

Sunday, tired as he seemed from the years of campaigning, there were flashes of the Mondale humor.

"You've got a classic here," he said of his performance in the interview. "When's Reagan going to do one of these interviews?" he quipped at another point.

The interview was vintage Walter Mondale, at once an experienced figure who can display a command of foreign policy matters and a leading post-Vietnam Democratic liberal jostling with crosscutting political pressures.

In responding to almost all questions, he was the portrait of a man trying to appreciate world complexities, looking for a way to discern the limits of American power and the occasions to use it, and always seeming to try to balance the need for military strength with the need for negotiations.

Confusion vs. Realism

Mondale aides acknowledge that this looks to some like confusion and to others like realism.

The Minnesotan made these other points in the interview:

¶ If the Russians and Cubans set up a base in Nicaragua, he would view that as "totally intolerable," and take "such steps" as necessary to get them out.

¶ He intends to make the deaths of more than 200 marines in Lebanon a major campaign issue.

¶ On the Middle East generally, he would go back to the Camp David process between Israel and Egypt begun by President Carter, become personally involved and not put pressure on Israel.

¶ On negotiations with Moscow regarding medium-range missiles, he would be prepared to forgo deployments of Pershing 2 medium-range missiles if the Russians accepted equal numbers of Soviet SS-20's and American cruise missiles.

¶ On Central America, he would not insist that Nicaragua make internal changes as a requirement for a peace settlement, as Mr. Reagan has.

¶ Human rights issues would be a major feature of a Mondale Administration, but he would change the tone and emphasis of the Carter human rights policy to take greater account of national security concerns.

The Reagan Administration has moved to make Grenada a symbol of the reassertion of American power. Administration officials have pointed to Mr. Mondale's reluctance to take a stand as evidence that he did not appreciate that.

With respect to Grenada, Mr. Mondale noted that at the time of the invasion "we had no way of evaluating" the situation because of the "total blackout" on information. At the time, "I said that if Americans were at risk, I would have used power to protect them."

Subsequently, Mr. Mondale said, he learned from Americans who had traveled to Grenada that Americans there "were in trouble."

Nonetheless, his new statement stands in contrast to the Democratic Party platform, which said the Grenada invasion had "divided us from our European allies and alienated our friends throughout the Western Hemisphere." That view was reflected last month, for instance, by his running mate, Geraldine A. Ferraro. On the ABC News program "This Week," she said she "would not have jumped into that situation militarily, as did President Reagan."

The emphasis of Mr. Mondale's remarks on Central America, however, was that the Administration was relying on force rather than diplomacy. Like the Administration, he said he would support President José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador and keep American military advisers in El Salvador and Honduras. But he would stop support for the "contras" in their war against Nicaragua.

He argued that the Administration was not making a serious effort to back other Central American nations in working out a settlement. His main negotiating aims with the Managua Government would be to get their agreement to stop exporting revolution and refrain from permitting Soviet and Cuban bases on Nicaraguan soil.

Mr. Mondale also emphasized that to set Soviet-American relations on a better track "the total spectrum" of ties had to be improved.